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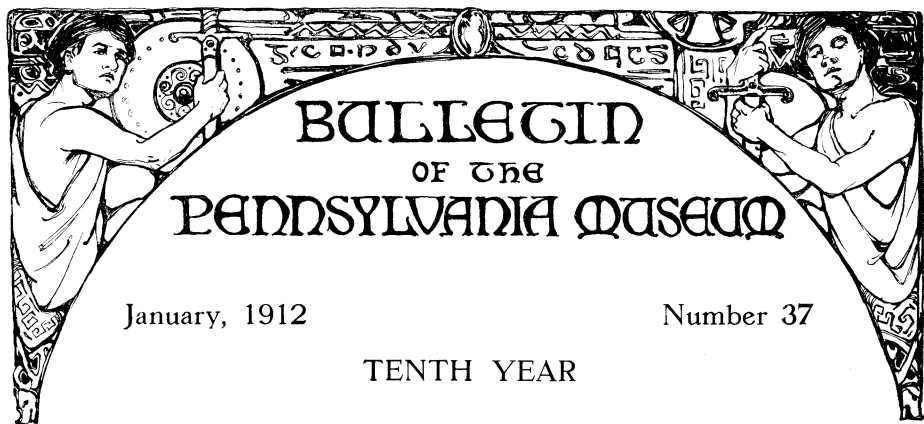
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THE FRISHMUTH ANTIQUARIAN COLLECTION

The Park Commissioners having converted two more divisions of the basement on the north side of Memorial Hall into exhibition rooms, these have been assigned by the Museum authorities to the extension of Mrs. W. D. Frishmuth's Antiquarian Collection which now occupies five well-equipped and adequately lighted rooms. These are approached by an easy stairway; and the interesting collection of objects that from one to two hundred years ago formed what to modern Americans may seem like the comfortless comforts of the English and German Colonists, is now accessible. One must look here in vain for the relatively luxurious relics of the great and the rich. There are no Adam mirrors, no Chippendale furniture, no Lowestoft or Chinese porcelains. The picture evoked by the collection is that of the farmer's humble homestead or that of the poorer citizen of the town. But that poorer citizen or farmer probably enjoyed far greater comforts than did his English brother of the same period.

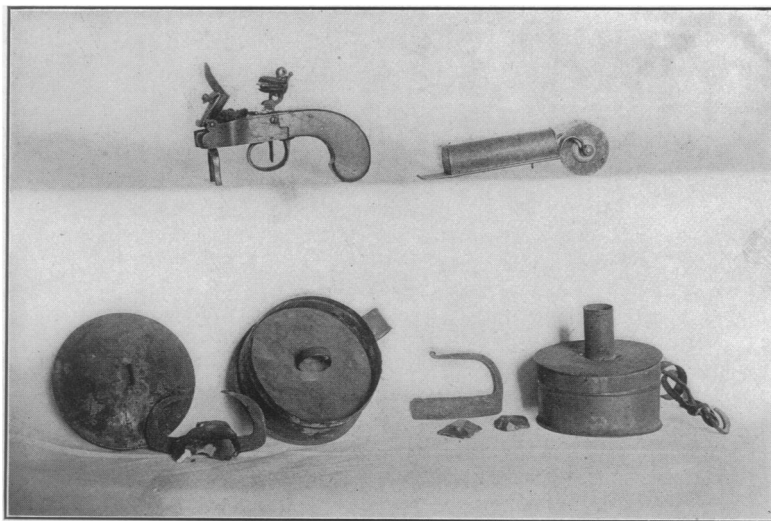
The collection now before us well illustrates the fact that Philadelphia, at the time of the Revolution, could represent in one of her industrial pageants, so common in those days, fifty distinct trades. It was on the solid foundation of manufactures and trade that had been built up a Society living in self-produced comfort and ease. (1) Trevelyan (2) states that Philadelphia lacked nothing that was possessed by any city of England, except a close corporation and a bull-ring.

Pennsylvania, about the middle of the eighteenth century, could justly be called the most flourishing of the English colonies. A fleet of four hundred sail left Philadelphia yearly with the season's products. The Colony's free population numbered two hundred thousand souls, (3) and the conclusion

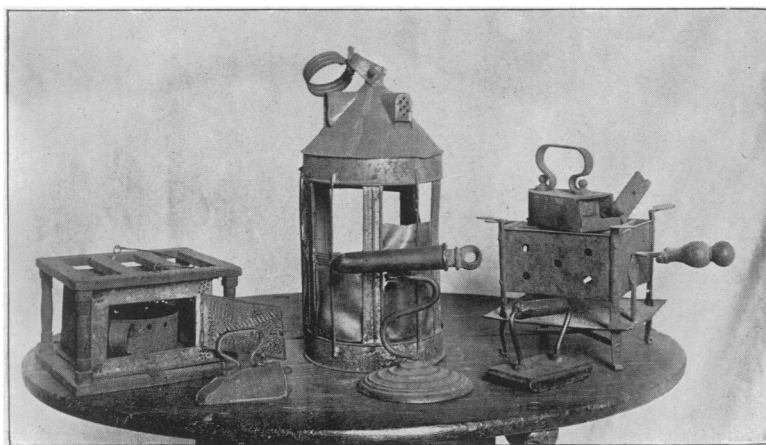
(1) See Bryant & Gay "A Popular History of the United States," vol. IV, p. 91.

(2) "The American Revolution," part I, p. 77.

(3) "Winsor Narrative and Critical History," vol. V, p. 216; of Grahame: The History of the United States, II., p. 403; Douglas: A Summary of the British Settlements, vol. II, pp. 324-5; Sheffield: Observations of the Commerce of the American States, table VII.

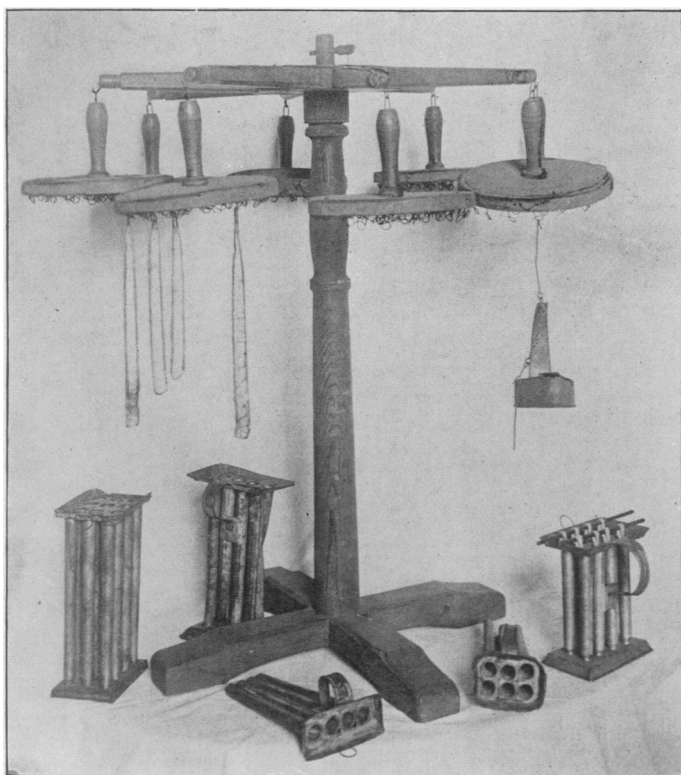


FIRE LIGHTING APPARATUS
Eighteenth Century
Frishmuth Collection



ANTIQUE STOVES, SMOOTHING IRONS AND LANTERN
Frishmuth Collection

drawn by Maurice A. Low in his luminous and informing work (4) is that, on the whole, the three million colonists at the outbreak of the American Revolution were really better off than the ten million people who constituted, then, the population of England. That the general or average standard of living was higher, and there was less poverty, degradation and vice.



CANDLE DIPPING REEL
CANDLE MOULDS AND BETTY LAMP
Frishmuth Collection

The series belonging to the colonial kitchen—that centre around which revolved the life of the early immigrant to the New World, is probably most representative of the degree of civilization which the people enjoyed. Here was truly the hearth where the family rallied and lived its rare leisure moments; and while Mrs. Frishmuth has not reproduced the famous old kitchen in the Van Cortlandt House in New York, she has collected together most of the material with which it is furnished.

(4) "The American People," vol. II, p. 45.

Isaac Sharpless, President of Haverford College, in his delightful little book (5) quotes from a letter written by an evidently charming Quaker girl, Sally Brinley, to her grandmother, dated from "The Manor," Bucks County, Pa., under date "The 28th of 11th mo. 1685," which serves as a fair illustration of a Pennsylvania country kitchen at that early colonial date:

"Our new house is all done. I wish you could see our big kitchen. It has a fire place entirely across one end of the room. Papa brings the back log in with the horse, and when the boys pile wood up against it, such a fire as it does make. We have so much wood, Papa says he would be rich if we had this lumber in England. I gather chips," etc. . . . "The new house is built on logs and all nicely plastered inside. We'll all be good and warm this winter. There is room in the fire place for Papa's big chair and Mamma's rocker. There is a bench on the other side for us children. There is a little narrow window near the chimney where the spinning-wheel stands. I've learned to bake cakes on the coals. We have a Dutch oven now" . . . and there follow more details of the farming, "ranging" of cattle, draining of the land and food supplies, that are equally interesting—all of which the Frishmuth collection admirably illustrates and to which it gives point.

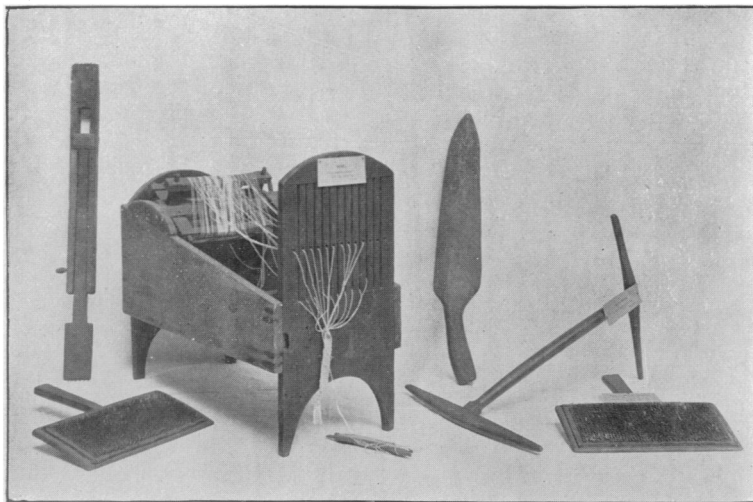
There are many iron implements, pots and pans, some on feet to stand over the coals of the fireplace for the operation described by the sprightly Sally, and a fireplace furnished with cranes to hold the pots, tells the story. Here also is a marvelous, huge vat made of one great hollowed section of an ash-tree and used to make soft-soap. There is an old "nogging" and many other odd-shaped pails. An iron contrivance for carrying about live coals for kindling fires, is eloquent of days when matches were not. This may also be said of long iron "lazy-tongs" for picking a live coal out of the fire to light the farmer's pipe. A fine series of waffle-irons of various shapes, patterns and sizes, make the modern housekeeper envious. Another interesting story is told by a series of humble implements for the making of tallow "dips" which, in early days of Colonial life, were the common illuminating process. Moulds of various sizes in which the tallow was run for the manufacture of from a dozen or more candles, show how the house-wife of the time supplied the place of the present gas or electric corporations.

The remainder of the house is almost equally well-represented by its furniture. There are more or less ornamental backs and jambs, brass-knockers, a series of light making devices the mechanism of which is especially worthy of close attention. Interesting also are the sign marks of ancient local insurance companies which came into existence in the middle of the XVIII century.

Heavy keys of different patterns, and excessive bulk and weight, queer iron stoves for burning wood, wonderful old quilts of patch-work, counterpanes of tuft or lampwick designs; books of patterns for the various homespun coverlets and other textile articles of home use; and "heckles" of every description for combing flax.

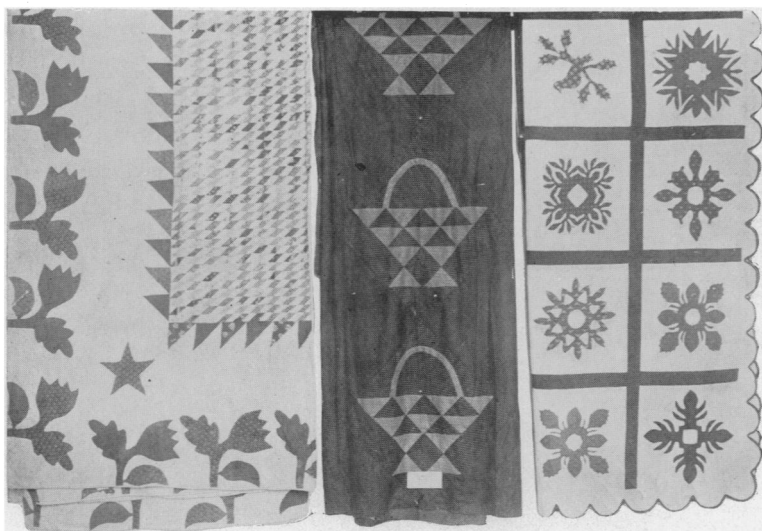
The dining room is well supplied with utensils—knives, forks and spoons, of steel and wood or bone; dishes and glass; and a full series of pewter and moulds, show how the pioneers supplied their lack of silverware.

(5) "A Quaker Experiment in Government."



WEAVING IMPLEMENTS

Ribbon or Tape Heddle, Wool Carders, Niddy-Noddy, etc.
Frishmuth Collection



PATCHWORK QUILTS (Folded)

Showing Three Designs
Frishmuth Collection

The wardrobe is well-represented by curious foot and head gear for both sexes, and rather formidable looking stays that do not evoke thoughts of comfort. Many curious passing fashions of various epochs are exhibited, as well as an interesting collection of fashion-plates including some noted actresses of the XVIII century in their principal roles and most tragic attitudes. Fashions for women from 1780 to 1820 and some plates from the "Journal des Tailleurs" dating from the middle of the XIX century complete a small but interesting collection, explanatory of the objects of dress exhibited.

Most primitive are the farming implements shown. Wooden ploughs, oxen yokes, oxen shoes, and curiously shaped tools are fascinating to examine. Especially curious are some wooden water-conduits formed of tree-trunks hollowed, that were dug up in 1903 from a point near the Schuylkill River. Memories of the days of a volunteer fire-department are evoked by some old leather fire buckets and a fireman's horn. To the out-of-door class of necessities also belong curious bear and man-traps and similar objects for hunting or trapping smaller game; while a quaint old two-wheeled "chaise," such as Peter Ruggs might have used for his endless drive in the weird old tale, completes a collection which brings to life before the visitor, far better than mere words ever could, the work-a-day existence of the sturdy simple men who founded this great State.

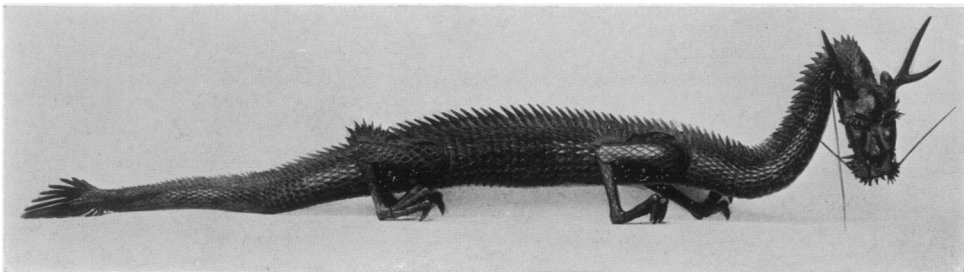
S. Y. S.



AMONG THE ACCESSIONS

One of the most remarkable examples of iron work secured by the Museum is an articulated dragon, of Japanese workmanship, which measures 31½ inches in length. This is so constructed that every joint and scale is movable, producing almost the pliability of a living animal. It is signed Muneyori, the name of a celebrated Japanese metal worker. This unusual example of the blacksmith's art has been presented to the Museum by Mr. John T. Morris.

An articulated iron crayfish, bearing the signature Myochin-Munenaga, has also been added to the collection of Japanese metal work by purchase.



ARTICULATED IRON DRAGON

By Muneyori